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House Moves Forward on Modernization of U.S. Intelligence Structure

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. House of Representatives today overwhelmingly passed bipartisan legislation that improves human intelligence and analysis capabilities, prioritizes technical collection programs and authorizes funding and programs for the new office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI).

“A tremendous amount of information can be obtained through technological means,” said U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. “However, U.S. intelligence must enhance its capabilities in a broad range of foreign languages and better analyze the vast amounts of data collected if we are to anticipate and understand the depth and breadth of potential threats to national security.”

The *Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006* (H.R. 2475) is the first intelligence authorization bill to prioritize the programs and budgets under the management of the DNI, a cabinet-level position created in the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004*. The House passed the bill 409 to 16.

“The House Intelligence Committee has committed a great deal of effort to oversee the implementation of the 9-11 reform legislation passed last year,” Hoekstra said. “The tangible results of the bill are just becoming visible, most notably in the swearing in of Ambassador John Negroponte as the nation’s first DNI.

“Overhauling the nation’s intelligence apparatus is a difficult process that requires a long-term yet flexible strategy. The 21st century will likely include far greater threats than the United States has ever faced. We are now four years removed from the attacks of Sept. 11, but the challenges to ensuring our security have not diminished, and in such an environment we cannot afford let our guard down.”